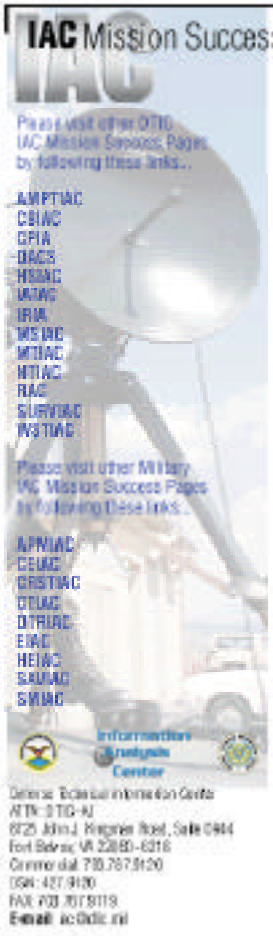
IAC Mission Success Stories

INFRARED INFORMATION ANALYSIS CENTER

IRIA Story 1 Story 2



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International Collaboration in Military Sensing

Post-World War II American defense strategy has always relied on strong military alliances, such as NATO. In the post-Cold War environment, proof of the need for continued alliances lies in such conflicts as the Gulf War, Bosnia, and Kosovo. As U.S. defense expenditures dwindle, however, and European countries move to the technological cutting edge in many military technologies, it is crucial to enhance technical exchange and collaboration with these alliance partners.

2000 International MSS Sessions	
A.	Keynotes
B.	Operational Requirements
C.	Countermine
D.	Processing and Component Technology
E.	Navigation, Targeting, and Identification
F.	Surveillance and Reconnaissance
G.	Soldier Systems, Sniper and Security Systems, and Acoustics
H.	Survivability

Continued on Story 1

Supporting JV 2020: Covering the Ground in Military Sensing

Sensors are a key element of the U.S. defense strategy. The information provided by sensors of various types enables commanders to exercise “decision superiority” that is based on contemporaneous, complete, and accurate representations of the battlespace. Without supporting sensors and sensing technologies, they simply cannot carry out this strategy.

For many years, IRIA has played an important role in the research, development, test, and acquisition of infrared and electro-optical sensors. However, there has been no comparable support for the many other sensors used in defense, such as radar and acoustics, or for broader sensor-related technologies such as fusion. This gap has now been filled by the expansion of IRIA's scope to encompass all military sensing. IRIA, which will be renamed during the next contract cycle to reflect its new role, now collects, compiles, analyzes, and disseminates information for all military sensing and related disciplines. The “one-stop shop” makes it far easier for the warfighter (as well as DoD scientists, engineers, and managers) to acquire the crucial information they need to carry out our national defense strategy.

Continued on Story 2

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International Collaboration in Military Sensing (continued)

IRIA administers a series of international symposia to carry out this collaboration. Presenters and attendees for these meetings come from NATO member countries and other allied countries. The meetings serve as a forum to share information on military sensing operations and technology. Recent meetings were in Quebec (1998) and London (1996). Most recently, IRIA held the very successful Fourth Joint International Military Sensing Symposium at Ecole Polytechnique, in Palaiseau, France, just south of Paris. Attendance at this meeting totaled 350 representatives of 13 countries, including Australia for the first time.

In today's constrained resource environment, international cooperation among allied nations of this kind truly enhances national defense capabilities for the U.S. and for our allies.

Background

International collaboration in sensitive defense areas has traditionally suffered from a lack of venues for coordination, presentation, and publication of limited distribution information. Starting in 1992, IRIA instituted a series of international meetings designed to correct this shortcoming. Now held in alternate years, these meetings bring together scientists, engineers, and managers from NATO and other allied nations to share information on military sensing. The meeting proceedings subsequently published represent a permanent record of research results available for the entire military sensing community.

These meetings cover military sensing science, technology, development, test, and deployment. The table at the right shows the sessions presented at the recent Paris meeting, exemplifying the broad scope and depth of this meeting, and the focus on defense topics of high importance. The administration of a symposium overseas poses significant problems of coordination and management; the ability to carry this out is a real asset.

Meetings have now been held in Maryland (USA), the UK, Canada, and France. Each meeting has been highly successful in terms of attendance, the number and quality of presentations, and the number of participating countries (see table below). The meetings have maintained a strong attendance in spite of declining budgets, and attendees verify that the technical content of the meeting continues to grow along with the number of participating countries. In the future, this meeting promises to play an increasingly important part in the defense of the U.S. as well as that of our allies.

Year	Location	Papers	Sessions	Attendees	Countries
1992	Gaithersburg, MD	75	7	475	8
1996	London, UK	146	16	385	10
1998	Quebec, Canada	149	17	395	11
2000	Palaiseau (Paris), France	112	8	350	13

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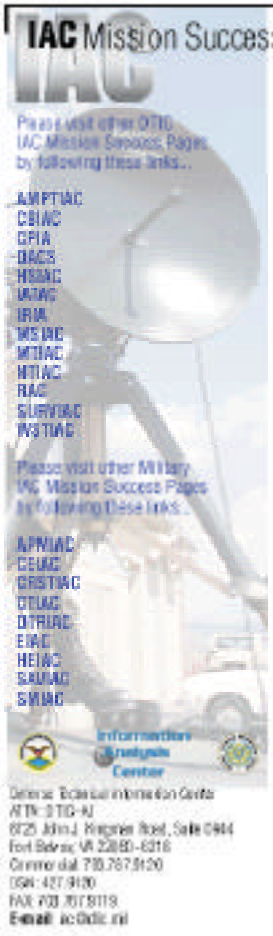

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Supporting JV2020: Covering the Ground in Military Sensing (continued)

Since 1960, IRIA has provided the infrared and electro-optical military sensing communities with information services that greatly assisted in the development, testing, and deployment of sensors and sensor systems. IRIA provided traditional Information Analysis Center (IAC) services, such as responding to technical inquiries, publishing newsletters and other periodicals, publishing state of the art and other technical reports, and compiling and publishing handbooks. In addition, IRIA has administered a long-term series of meetings called the Infrared Information Symposia (IRIS). These regularly scheduled symposia and the infrastructure used to support them provided the IR/EO communities a forum for the evaluation, review, presentation, and publication of scholarly articles on classified research in infrared and electro-optical sensing.

The IRIS paradigm relies on extensive government-industry collaboration under the guidance of a national committee of eminent scientists, engineers, and managers. An important aspect of the IRIS approach is that individual meetings are added, revised, or discontinued to reflect the needs of the community. This flexibility is available nowhere else. The conjunction of IRIS with the baseline IAC support has proven to be a very potent combination. In fact, the success of the U.S. in fielding IR/EO systems over the past 30 years is due in part to the IRIA/IRIS approach. Laser-guided weapons, thermal imaging systems, night vision devices, and many other systems were assisted through this process.

In 1996, Dr. A. Fenner Milton, Chairman of the IRIA Steering Committee, directed IRIA to explore ways to expand the IRIA/IRIS paradigm to other areas of military sensing. This process began with the integration of the National Sensor and Data Fusion Symposium into IRIS. IRIA later incorporated meetings on Battlefield Acoustics and Seismics and the national meeting on Camouflage, Concealment, and Deception. Extended coordination with the radar community resulted in incorporation of radar and radar technologies into several existing IRIS meetings starting in 1999. This integration will be completed in 2001 as the Tri-Service Radar Symposium moves under the IRIA umbrella.

Reflecting its new scope, IRIS has been renamed “Military Sensing Symposia,” or MSS. By expanding to include all military sensing-related fields, IRIA is now able to provide scientists, engineers, and managers with the technical information they need to accelerate system development. And the warfighter has a single point of contact for needed information on sensor operations. This measurably enhances the ability of the U.S. to conduct successful military operations under the terms of our national strategy.

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